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Letter dated 20 January 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 January 2014, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and the annex thereto could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Levent **Eler**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 January 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a copy of the letter dated 20 January 2014 addressed to you by Derviş Eroğlu, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its enclosure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Having reached a turning point in the efforts, under your mission of food offices, to resume the fully fledged negotiations to find a settlement to the Cyprus problem, I am writing to share with you my views on how to move forward with the narrowing window of opportunity as also acknowledged by you.

As you would recall, when I was elected as President in April 2010, I had sent a letter to you reaffirming my commitment to a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality as defined by the relevant Security Council resolutions, and expressed my readiness to continue the negotiations from where they had been left off. I had also expressed my acceptance of the parameters and convergences that had been achieved in the course of the negotiations over the years which continue to form the basis of the process.

Naturally, I was expecting the same constructive approach from my Greek Cypriot counterpart, Nicos Anastasiades, when he was elected as the leader of the Greek Cypriot community in February 2013. Unfortunately, however, not only did Mr. Anastasiades fail to do so, but he also refused to come to the negotiating table, setting preconditions for the resumption of the fully pledged negotiations and citing various pretexts. His refusal to engage with me in this respect continues to this day.

I had agreed to engage in the drafting of a joint statement that would be issued after the first leaders' meeting as a demonstration of goodwill and my desire to address the concerns of the other side. Throughout this four-month-long exercise, the Turkish Cypriot side has acted constructively and shown utmost flexibility so as to enable the exercise to be concluded successfully. To that end, we accepted a United Nations-prepared "food for thought" paper on 7 October 2013, with minor modifications; agreed to another draft prepared by the United Nations on 11 December 2013; and, in the final instance, proposed a draft which had been prepared with the active participation and support of not only the United Nations, but also other key actors, including Turkey.

As you must have been duly informed by your Special Adviser, Alexander Downer, and the United Nations negotiating team, all relevant parties, including Mr. Anastasiades, had been consulted during the preparation of this final draft and we were told in no uncertain terms that this was the best draft that could have been achieved. In other words, this proposal was an offer that met the demands and concerns of the Greek Cypriot side in a spirit of maximum flexibility and reconciliation on the part of the Turkish Cypriot side. In making this painful sacrifice, I have shown political courage and leadership.

We were utterly surprised and disappointed, however, that, rather than accepting this gesture, the Greek Cypriot side has attempted to discredit it by sending a draft of its own which clearly aims to undermine our legitimate concerns on crucial issues, leaving the door open to claims of sovereignty by one side over the other, in this case, by the Greek Cypriot side over the Turkish Cypriot side. With this last manoeuvre, the Greek Cypriot side has effectively frustrated the exercise. As a people that has suffered from being thrown out of the partnership State of 1960, which was usurped by the Greek Cypriots by force of arms in 1963, and thus left out of the international system for over 50 years, we are justified in requiring effective safeguards against the repetition of such a predicament. In fact, several times during the exercise, the Greek Cypriot side declared "a deadlock"

demonstrating its lack of sincerity in seeking a joint statement, which has been turned into not only a precondition, but also a means for foot-dragging and prolongation.

As I have stressed right from the beginning, I am ready to resume the fully fledged negotiations even without a joint statement and without any preconditions and to negotiate in good faith, as has been envisaged by the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is, however, our earnest hope that the draft joint statement will be accepted in its present form so that the four-month-long effort for its formulation will not be lost. The Cyprus question has completed its fiftieth year, and I believe that resolving this dispute is long overdue. This should not only be our vision; it is also our responsibility towards future generations as the leaders of our respective peoples.

Mr. Anastasiades, rather than responding positively to my repeated calls for negotiations without preconditions, has engaged in a blame game and negative public messaging, against which you have advised us in your successive reports to the Security Council. In this respect, we are aware of the letters that Mr. Anastasiades has addressed to you and to your Special Adviser, Mr. Downer, in which he totally distorts the picture about the drafting exercise of a joint statement, and goes so far as to question the scope of your mission of good offices as well as the credibility of your Special Adviser. Although I will not dignify the allegations in these letters with a detailed response, I wish to point out that in the letter that Mr. Anastasiades addressed to you on 2 January 2014, he rejects any notion of "ambiguity", constructive or otherwise, "creative thinking", or even a "balanced compromise". I hardly need to emphasize that these are essential elements of any fruitful negotiation.

I wish to point out that the way to get out of the current situation for the international community is to persuade the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its negative stance towards the standing proposal that the Turkish Cypriot side has made with the participation and full support of all interested relevant actors, and to convince them to sit at the negotiating table without preconditions. The proposal to start yet another, perhaps "shorter", drafting exercise after having spent four months on the present one not only lacks any sincerity, but also would be futile, since the first one was also conceived as a short statement but turned into a drawn-out, complicated process because of the attempts of the Greek Cypriot side to overload the draft with issues of substance that should be discussed at the negotiating table.

Clearly, the Greek Cypriot side needs to be motivated and urged to reconsider its strategy of foot-dragging, and to adopt an approach conducive to the resumption of fully fledged negotiations without further delay. I have full trust in your wisdom and judgement in duly informing the members of the Security Council on the aforementioned facts, on the eve of the consultations that will be held in the Security Council and the adoption of the resolution on the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

(*Signed*) Derviş **Eroğlu**
President